

WI-235
Oliver O. Banks House
Allen
Private

c. 1923

The Oliver O. Banks house stands out prominently in the rural village of Allen. Located on a small ridge of land overlooking the main county road that passes through the community, the story-and-a-half frame bungalow is a distinctive example of this popular early twentieth century design. Large tapered posts, resting on brick plinths, support a shed roof that shelters the front entrance and triple windows to each side. The long sloping gable roof, characteristic of the bungalow style, is marked by a pair of gabled dormers that add light and space to the upstairs bedrooms.

Family history and the chain of title bear out that the bungalow was financed by Oliver O. Banks around 1923 after he purchased what is known in the land records as the "Porter Lot" in March of that year. Oliver Banks operated a store in Allen during the early to mid twentieth century. The parcel attained its name, the "Porter Lot," from a former owner of the land, Robert H. Porter, who purchased the lot from Hester A. Twilley in 1883.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Oliver O. Banks House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-235

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-235

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Oliver O. Banks House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3490 Allen Road ___ not for publication

city, town Allen ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Carroll N. Lentz

street & number 3490 Allen Road telephone no.:

city, town Allen state and zip code MD 21810

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 56, P. 187
liber 1021

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 125

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-235

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Oliver O. Banks house is located at 3490 Allen Road, and the rectangular parcel on which the house stands is bounded by Allen Road on the southeast and Collins Wharf Road on the southwest. Positioned on an elevated ridge of land, the house faces southeast with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Built c. 1923, the story-and-a-half frame bungalow is supported on a raised stretcher bond brick foundation, and the exterior is fully clad with vinyl siding. The medium sloped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The eaves are extended around the house, and they are sheathed with a vinyl covering. A gable roofed garage joins the house on the rectangular parcel.

The southeast (main) elevation is a symmetrical elevation with a center entrance and flanking triple windows sheltered by an engaged shed roof front porch. The partially glazed front door is flanked by five-light sidelights. The triple windows to each side feature six-over-one sash. The porch roof is supported by tapered and paneled posts that rest on brick plinths. A railing with rectangular balusters and a molded railing stretches between the posts. The southeast slope of the roof is marked by a pair of gable roofed dormers filled with three-over-one sash windows.

The southwest side elevation is a asymmetrical facade with an off-center brick chimney rising against the southern portion of the wall. The brick chimney is partially exposed and partially enclosed within the wall surface, and the stack protrudes through the extended eave. The first and second floors are lighted by an asymmetrical arrangement of six-over-one sash windows. Lighting the cellar are several three-pane windows.

The northeast side elevation is marked by six-over-one sash windows on the first and second floors. Rectangular openings with three-pane window pierce the foundation wall.

The back of the main block is extended by a shed roofed addition that is partially enclosed and partially open.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-235

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Oliver O. Banks house stands out prominently in the rural village of Allen. Located on a small ridge of land overlooking the main county road through the community, the story-and-a-half frame bungalow is a distinctive representation of this popular early twentieth century design. Large tapered posts, resting on brick plinths, support a shed roof that shelters the front entrance and triple windows to each side. The long sloping gable roof, characteristic of the bungalow style, is marked by a pair of gabled dormers that add light and space to the upstairs bedrooms.

Family history and the chain of title bear out that the bungalow was financed by Oliver O. Banks around 1923 after he purchased what is known in the land records as the "Porter Lot" in March of that year. (Wicomico County Land Records, JCK 128/563) Oliver Banks operated a store in Allen during the early to mid twentieth century. The parcel attained its name, the "Porter Lot," from a former owner of the land, Robert H. Porter, who purchased the lot from Hester A. Twilley in 1883. (Shivers, p. 236)

This house qualifies for listing in *Category B*, which identifies all properties that should be preserved since they represent well a period of architectural style with intact period features. The house contributes to the historic character of the village.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-235

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

date 10/30/95

street & number P. O. Box 5

telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover

state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

WI-235
Oliver O. Banks House
3490 Allen Road
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

1021/125 Laura H. Banks

to

9/21/1984 Carroll N. Lentz
Mary P. Lentz
Plat book JWS 241/130 Lot No. 1
"Oliver Banks" 4/18/1942

AJS 833/333 Russell W. Banks

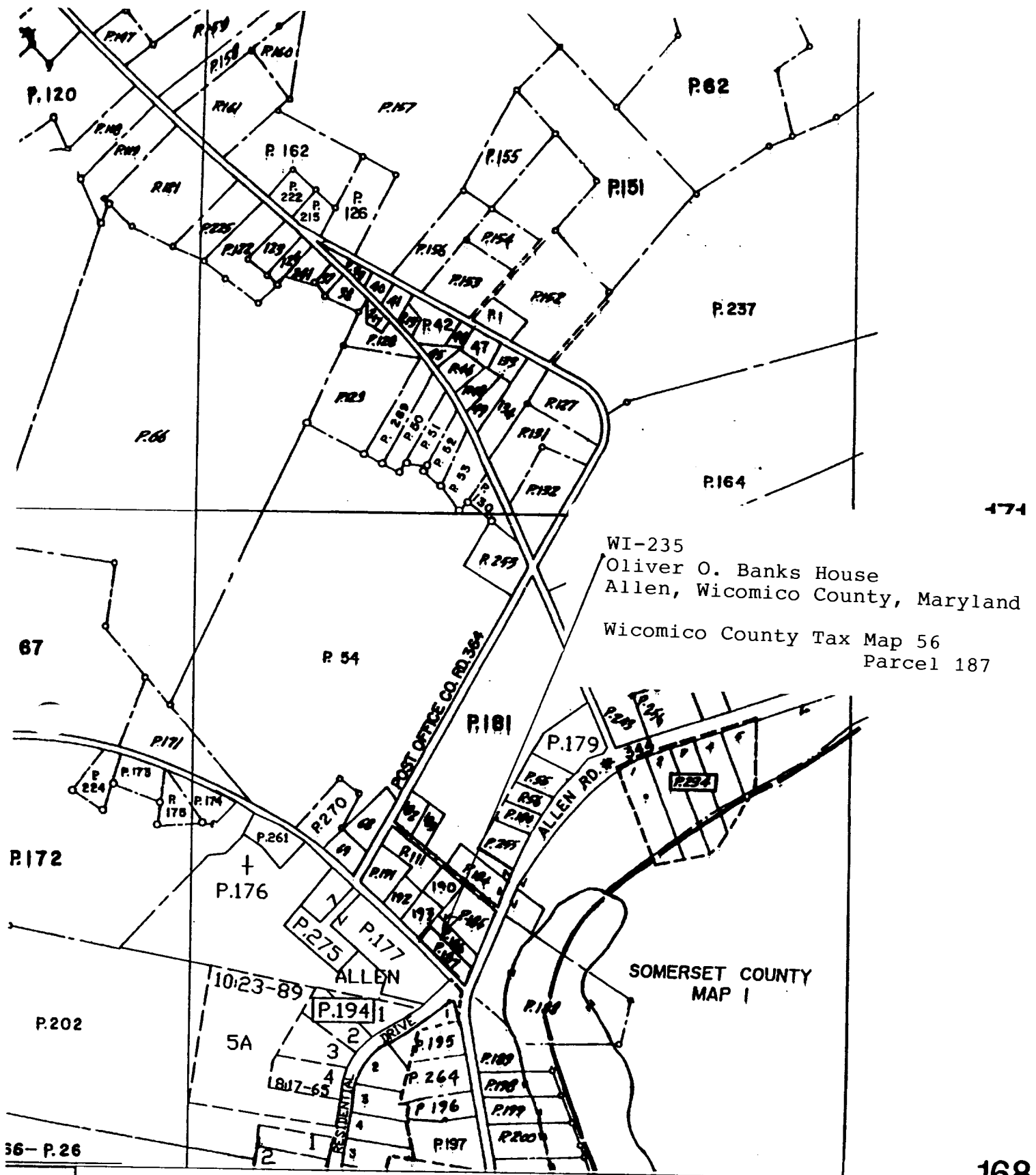
to

1/3/1975 Laura H. Banks
said lot being known as the "Porter Lot,"
which was conveyed to Ida B. Huffington by
William J. Twilley, Mary W. Malone, Peter
A. Malone, Sophia E. Nichols, Elias Nichols,
by deed dated 3/28/1894 JTT 13/31 part of
same land conveyed to Oliver O. Banks by Rex
A. Taylor 3/21/1923 JCK 128/563 The said
Oliver O. Banks, intestate, having departed
this life on or about 3/23/1974 JAH 13/111

JCK 128/563 Rex A. Taylor

to

3/21/1923 Oliver O. Banks
\$525 Decree of Circuit Court



WI-235
Oliver O. Banks House
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland
Wicomico County Tax Map 56
Parcel 187

Holy Temple

Cem Friendship

Allen

CREEK

Loretto

Substation

WI-235
Oliver O. Banks House
3490 Allen Road
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland

Eden, Maryland Quadrangle
1983

42°30'

°39

(PRINCESS ANNE)

5860 11 NW

SCALE 1:24 000

PRINCESS ANNE TANK

11100 MOKE CITY TANK

40'

°42



W-235

OLIVER C. BAKER HOUSE

ALLEN, Wisconsin County, WIS.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

11/22, P.M. - TOWN OF ALLEN

NEL / NW DISTRICT

Y